

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 7, 2006

Dr. Arden L. Bement, Director  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22230

**RE: Solicitation NSF-05-506**

Dear Director Bement,

We applaud the National Science Foundation's ongoing consideration of the Henderson Mine in Empire, Colorado as one of two finalists for the development of the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL). We believe that the Henderson Mine is the most appropriate and economical site for a successful DUSEL effort by the National Science Foundation.

Since the Henderson Mine was selected as a finalist in July 2005, the applicants have taken significant steps to demonstrate local and state support for this project. First, with the financial support of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, the Colorado Office of Economic Development, the Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, University of Colorado/Boulder and the State University of New York at Stony Brook, the applicants have committed over \$365,000 to two core drilling studies at the site to evaluate rock characteristics and geological structures.

Second, on May 31<sup>st</sup>, Governor Bill Owens signed into law a bill passed by the 2006 Colorado Legislature to commit \$20 million dollars to the project over five years. Further, Henderson's professional staff brings decades of experience in mine safety and management. As a modern fully permitted facility, Henderson's infrastructure possesses ideal and unique features: fiber optic communications, low cost rock removal system, water treatment systems, dual independent high-capacity electricity feeds (2x24MW) and a large diameter shaft with heavy lift capacity. The proximity to Interstate 70, Denver International Airport and three major research universities ensures DUSEL at Henderson would be an excellent investment for the nation and the future of science in the United States.

As a large metropolitan area, Denver boasts a wealth of cultural and recreational resources and is one of the nations leading technology centers. Considering the above, combined with recent developments and demonstrated strong support of municipal, county and state governments, we are convinced that the Henderson Mine will prove to be the most economical and successful site for the DUSEL.

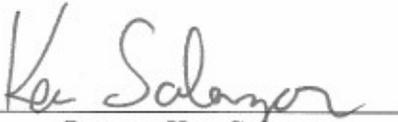
**Congress of the United States**

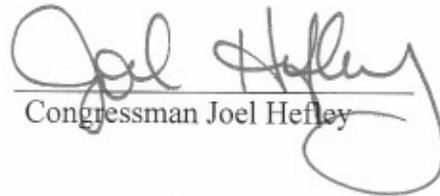
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We commend the process NSF has taken so far for this important science project. We support the continuing fair, transparent and science-based DUSEL selection process and will follow it with keen interest.

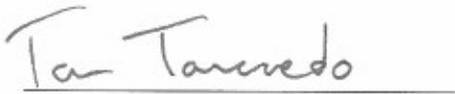
We appreciate your consideration,

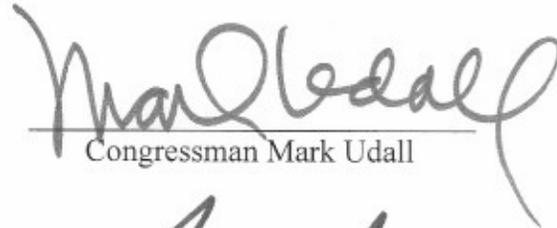
  
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Senator Wayne Allard

  
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Senator Ken Salazar

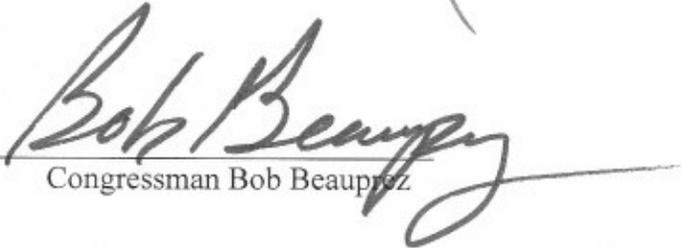
  
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Congressman Joel Hefley

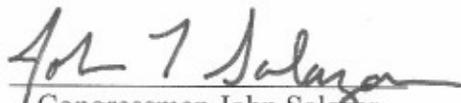
  
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Congresswoman Diana DeGette

  
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Congressman Tom Tancredo

  
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Congressman Mark Udall

  
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Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave

  
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Congressman Bob Beauprez

  
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Congressman John Salazar